

Ref.A084/184

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Community Affairs

There have been no meetings of Councils of Ministers during the past week.

2. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food may report that his representatives to the French Minister of Agriculture, Monsieur Rocard, about the stopping of two United Kingdom lorries carrying lamb were successful in securing the release of the lorries and their drivers. In spite of the activities of French farmers in giving away and damaging part of the consignments, the bulk of the lamb was still saleable. No further major incidents have been reported.
3. The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry may report on the latest position in the discussions between the Community and the United States on the latter's restrictions on imports of special steels. In the absence of any substantial improvement in the United States' offer of compensation for the restrictions, the Commission has notified the GATT of the Community's intention to take retaliatory action. The necessary implementing regulations will have to be agreed by the Council by mid-February in order that the retaliatory measures can take effect on 1 March.
4. During the next week, the Foreign Affairs Council will meet on 23-24 January and the Steel Council on 26 January. You will be visiting the French President on 23 January (that will be announced on the afternoon of Friday 20 January) and the Italian Prime Minister on 26 and 27 January. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is meeting the Danish Minister of Agriculture on 23-25 January.



ROBERT ARMSTRONG

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